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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **East Germany**

REPORT

SUBJECT **1955 Requirements and Capacities  
In Glass Envelope Production.**DATE DISTR. **28 January 1955**  
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. VEB Spezialglaswerk "Einheit" in Weisswasser (Oberlausitz), an enterprise under the Main Administration for Glass and Ceramics of the Ministry for Light Industry, is the only East German enterprise equipped to produce the glass flasks needed by the enterprises producing tubes and bulbs. The Weisswasser enterprise has four special machines for the blowing of glass flasks. The total capacity for production of machine-blown glass flasks is 55 million units per year.
2. As of early December 1954, twenty-five million machine-blown glass flasks had already been sold to foreign countries by DIA Glas-Keramik, mainly to Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. They are to be delivered in 1955. In addition, DIA Glas-Keramik announced that it needs about 25 million more glass flasks for export in 1955. According to the 1955 Production Plan the Ministry for Machine Construction needs a total of 62 million machine-blown glass flasks to cover the demands of the enterprises under its jurisdiction. The total 1955 demand for glass flasks needed by enterprises in East Germany and for export thus is about 112 million flasks, an amount exceeding the Weisswasser plant's capacity by far. Since 25 million flasks had already been sold by DIA Glas-Keramik, the Ministry for Machine Construction had only succeeded as of early December, in obtaining a 1955 allotment of 30 million flasks.
3. According to the production schedule of the Weisswasser enterprise, it will produce 34 million machine-blown glass flasks during the first half of 1955. The Ministry for Machine Construction will receive 21 million flasks and DIA Glas-Keramik 13 million flasks. During the second half of 1955, the Weisswasser enterprise will produce a total of 21 million flasks, of which 9 million are scheduled to go to the Ministry for Machine Construction and 12 million to DIA Glas-Keramik.
4. In view of this situation, the Ministry for Machine Construction intervened with DIA-Glas-Keramik in order to have it enter into negotiations with the foreign customer countries for the purpose of cancelling a good

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part of the export orders for machine-blown glass flasks. The flasks needed by the Ministry for Machine Construction are mainly for the electric light bulb factories in Berlin, Plauen, Eisenach and Oberweissbach.

5. The same situation prevails with regard to hand-blown glass flasks. These are needed for the radio industry and for those enterprises which produce special light bulbs and bulbs of small size. The total capacity of the Weisswasser enterprise is 23 million flasks per year. DIA Glas-Keramik has already sold 13.5 million hand-blown glass flasks to be delivered in 1955 [redacted] mainly again to the three Eastern states named above. The 1955 demand of the Ministry for Machine Construction for the radio plants under its supervision is 26.5 million hand-blown glass flasks. Here again the Ministry for Machine Construction entered into negotiations with DIA Glas-Keramik in order to have it cancel a part of its foreign delivery contracts.
6. The situation is not quite as bad, although far from satisfactory, with respect to hard glass flasks (Hartglaskolben). The Weisswasser enterprise again is the sole producer of this item except for small amounts produced by VEB Schott and Genossen in Jena. DIA Glas Keramik has already sold 27 tons of hard glass to be delivered in 1955 to Soviet Bloc countries. The 1955 demand of the Ministry for Machine Construction is 36 tons. The hard glass flasks are needed for infrared radiators and for special bulbs for railroads, ships, and for mining.

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[redacted] Comment: Glass envelopes are referred to as "glass flasks" throughout the report.

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